

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2008-0028

HLC DATE:

September 22, 2008

PC DATE:

October 14, 2008

APPLICANT: Stephen Yelenosky and Jill McRae, owners

HISTORIC NAME: Woody House

WATERSHED: Bouldin Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 709 Bouldin Avenue

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning for the Woody House for its significance in the areas of architecture and historical associations with John Elmer Woody, Austin's fire chief from 1926 to 1958.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended a zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) district zoning to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 4-0 (Leary, Limbacher and Arriaga ill).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended a zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) district zoning to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 8-0 (Small absent).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is not listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE: November 20, 2008

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The ca. 1938 house was the home of John Elmer and Elenor Woody and their family from 1940 through the late 1970s. Woody was the fire chief of Austin from 1927 through 1958 and oversaw the development of the City fire department as a professional firefighting force during his tenure.

Architecture:

One-and-a-half story irregular-plan cross-gabled frame Arts and Crafts bungalow with an external brick chimney piercing the front gable consisting of skewed rows of multi-colored bricks with "weeping" mortar; single and paired 1:1 fenestration with 6:1 wooden screens; gabled over-door hood; standing seam metal roof. The house exemplifies the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20th century in its decorative brick and mortar work.

Historical Associations:

The address first appears in the 1939 city directory as the home of Mrs. Bessie Pilcher, the widow of Ben L. Pilcher, who had been a traveling salesman. The Pilcher family had lived at 2818 Rio Grande Street prior to Mr. Pilcher's death; the 1930 U.S. Census reveals that Ben Pilcher was an agent for a publishing house. Mrs. Pilcher is listed as owning and residing at this house in the 1939 and 1940 city directories. In 1941, the house is listed as the home of John E. and Eleanor Woody, who had moved here from a house they had rented at 211 E. 3rd Street. John E. Woody (1891-1987) was born in Cedar Park, Texas, and became a firefighter in 1916. His 1917 draft registration card indicates that he was a city fireman, that he was married, and had a child; they were living at 209 W. 8th Street at that time. He was appointed the acting chief of the Fire Department in December, 1926, and chief in 1927, a position he held until his retirement in 1958, when he became an assistant director of public safety, a job he held until 1961. Woody oversaw the development of the city's Fire Department during the years of exponential growth in Austin, and was responsible for the maturation of the department from under 50 employees to the professional force of over 800 employees it is today. In addition to obtaining modern fire-fighting equipment for the Department, Woody established an alarm system for the fire stations and two-way radio communications with fire apparatus that was one of the first in the Southwest. During his tenure, several old volunteer fire halls were renovated for modern use, and many more fire stations were added, including Hyde Park Station in 1929, the Buford drill tower at Cesar Chavez and Colorado Streets in 1931, stations on MLK and South Congress in 1932, a new central fire station at 5th and Trinity in 1938, and additional stations throughout the city through his retirement in 1958. Woody hired three African-American firefighters in 1952, the first African-Americans to be hired under the new state Civil Service law, and established a fire station at the old airport to handle emergencies and aviation fires in the 1950s. He died in Kentucky in 1987. After his wife Elenor's death in 1947, Woody deeded the property to his son, police officer John E. Woody, Jr., and his wife Georgia Ruth, who lived with John Woody, Sr. here until 1979, when they sold the property to Charles Zeller and Connie Moore. Connie Moore received sole interest in the house in 1983, and was well-known in Austin as the proprietor of the Herb Bar and an advocate for sustainable living. She sold the house in 1996 to the current owners, Stephen Yelenosky and Jill McRae. Stephen Yelenosky is a state district judge and is the former legal director of Advocacy, Inc., a non-profit law office for people with disabilities as well as a former staff attorney with the local legal aid office. Jill McRae is a non-profit administrator with FamilyConnections, a long-time member of the city's Child Care Commission, and the former director of the Children's Cancer Center and the Human Rights Documentation Exchange.

PARCEL NO.: 01020102210000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 118.5 x 391 feet (average) of Lot 5, Block B, J.E. Bouldin Estate.

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$8,316 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,000 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$759,661

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNER:

Stephen Yelenosky and Jill McRae
709 Bouldin Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704

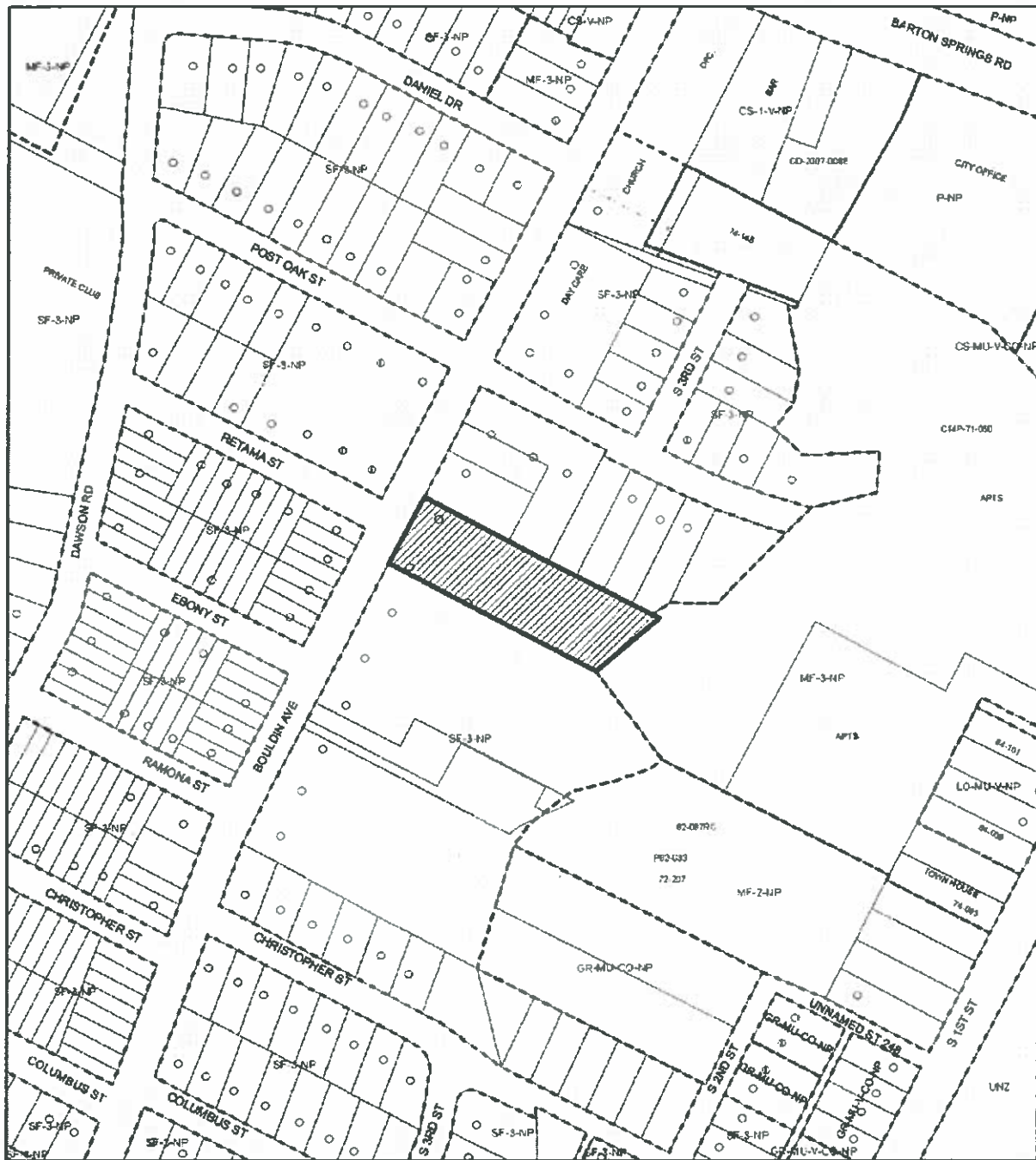
DATE BUILT: ca. 1938

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Second-story addition in a compatible style to the original house using matching materials and fenestration patterns; not visible from the public right-of-way.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Mrs. Bessie Pilcher (1938)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP



- SUBJECT TRACT
- ZONING BOUNDARY
- PENDING CASE

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS

HISTORIC ZONING
 ZONING CASE#: C14H-2008-0028
 ADDRESS: 709 BOULDIN AVE
 SUBJECT AREA: 0.000 ACRES
 GRID: H21
 MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY



1" = 200'

This map has been produced by G.I.S. Services for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



Front elevation



Oblique view showing front façade and north-facing sun-porch



Chimney detail showing picturesque brickwork and weeping mortar

OK to go
SS

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

PROJECT INFORMATION:

#10189116

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>9-4-08</u>	FILE NUMBER(S): <u>CHH-2008-0028</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	
CASE MANAGER: <u>S. Sadowsky</u>	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>Rosemary</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: <u>STEPHEN Yelenosky + Jill McRae</u>	
2. PROJECT NAME: <u>WOODY HOUSE</u>	
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): <u>709 BOULDER AVENUE</u>	
ZIP: <u>78701-1609</u>	COUNTY: <u>TRAVIS</u>
IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:	
LOCATED _____ FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE <u>N. S. E. W.</u> (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF	
(ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS	
APPROXIMATELY _____	DISTANCE FROM ITS
INTERSECTION WITH _____	CROSS STREET.

AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES <u>1.064</u>	(OR)	SQ. FT. _____			
5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:					
EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
<u>SF-3-NP</u>	<u>Residence</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE?	(YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER:	_____
7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT?	(YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER:	_____
8. SUBDIVISION?	(YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER:	_____
9. SITE PLAN?	(YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER:	_____

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: JAMES E. BOULDIN ESTATE
Block(s) B Lot(s) 5 Outlot(s) _____
Plat Book: _____ Page _____
Number: _____
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots)

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

11. VOLUME: 12754 PAGE: 1519 TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 010201022/0000

OTHER PROVISIONS:

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES / NO
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) NP
13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES / NO
14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES / NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY: _____
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): _____

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. SOLE X COMMUNITY PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP CORPORATION TRUST
If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: [Signature] NAME: STEPHEN YELENOSKY & JILL McRAE
FIRM NAME: [Signature] TELEPHONE NUMBER: 444-2226
STREET ADDRESS: 709 BOULDIN AVENUE
CITY: AUSTIN STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78709-1609
EMAIL ADDRESS: syelenosky@aol.com

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: _____ NAME: _____
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
CONTACT PERSON: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY: _____

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

SLY, L. / Jim McRae 8-19-08
Signature Date

STEPHEN YELENOSKY / Jim McRae
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

SLY, L. / Jim McRae 8-19-08
Signature Date

STEPHEN YELENOSKY / Jim McRae
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, STEPHEN YENOKY have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed
restrictions, _____
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain
development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

709 BOULDIN AVENUE
(Address or Legal Description)

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes,
deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve
it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a
result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,
restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

SLY
(Applicant's signature)

8-20-2008
(Date)

TAX CERTIFICATE
Nelda Wells Spears
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9473

NO 1037747

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 01-0201-0221-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

YELENOSKY STEPHEN & JILL MCRAE
709 BOULDIN AVE
AUSTIN, TX 78704-1609

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

118.5X391 FT AV OF LOT 5 BLK B BOU
LDIN J E ESTATE

ACRES 0.000 MIN* .00000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 709 BOULDIN AV

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2007	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*

TOTAL SEQUENCE 0

ALL PAID

TOTAL TAX:
UNPAID FEES:
INTEREST ON FEES:
COMMISSION:
TOTAL DUE ==>

ALL PAID
* NONE *
* NONE *
* NONE *
ALL PAID

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2007 \$11,570.16

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2007 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.

The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code). Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 08/19/2008

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: *Sonia Herrera*

F.1: Historical Documentation – Deed Chronology

Transaction	Vol. Page
Stark Washington to B.L. Pilcher Lot 22 of Stark Washington Subdivision (12 acres) May 13, 1932 \$210	Vol. 506 p. 219
Bessie K. Pilcher & Estate of Benjamin L. Pilcher to J.E. Woody Part of Lot B, Block 5 of James E. Bouldin Estate with metes and bounds February 23, 1940 \$ <u>5,800</u>	Vol. 642 p. 462
J.E. Woody to John Edward Woody & wife Georgia Ruth Woody Part of Lot B, Block 5 of James E. Bouldin Estate with metes and bounds January 2, 1948 \$ <u>4,000</u> note + valuable consideration	Vol. 894 p. 408
John Edward Woody & wife Georgia Ruth Woody to Charles P. Zeller and Connie Lynn Moore Part of Lot B, Block 5 of James E. Bouldin Estate with metes and bounds April 27, 1976 \$ <u>23,400</u> note + valuable consideration	Vol. 5418 p. 2313 (film code 1301804)
Charles Peretz Zeller to Connie Lynn Moore Part of Lot B, Block 5 of James E. Bouldin Estate with metes and bounds June 7, 1983 \$ <u>Assessment</u>	Vol. 8133 p. 237 four deed recites as Vol. 8177 p. 226; need to check both
Connie Lynn Moore to Stephen Yelenosky & Jill McRae Part of Lot B, Block 5 of James E. Bouldin Estate with metes and bounds August 19, 1996 \$295,000	Vol. 12754 p. 01519

ca. 1938



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 709 Bouldin Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
August, 2008

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1987 | Connie Moore, renter
Realtor, 200 W. Mary Street |
| 1981 | Charles Zeller, owner
Programmer, Computer Automation (not listed in the main directory) |
| 1975 | John E. and Ruth Woody, Jr., owners
Employed by the City
Also listed is John E. Woody, retired |
| 1969 | John E. and Georgia Woody, Jr., owners
City policeman
Also listed is John E. Woody, retired |
| 1963 | John E. and Georgia R. Woody, Jr., owners
City policeman
Also listed is John E. Woody, assistant safety director, City Fire Department |
| 1958 | John E. and Ruth Woody, Jr., owners
Identification officer, Police Department
Also listed is John E. Woody, chief, City Police [sic] – this should be City Fire Department. |
| 1955 | John E. and Ruth Woody, Jr., owners |

Employed by the City Police Department
Also listed is John E. Woody, chief, Fire Department

- 1952 John E. Woody, owner
Chief, City Fire Department
Also listed are John E. and Ruth Woody, Jr.; John E. Woody, Jr. was an identification officer for the City Police Department; Ruth Woody was an office secretary for Walker's Aus-Tex Chili, 310 San Antonio Street.
- 1949 John E. Woody, owner
Chief, City Fire Department
Also listed are John E. and Georgia R. Woody, Jr.; John E. Woody, Jr. was an identification officer for the City Police Department.
- 1947 John E. and Eleanor Woody, owners
Chief, City Fire Department
Also listed are John E. and Georgia R. Woody, Jr.; John E. Woody, Jr. was an identification officer for the City Police Department.
- 1944-45 John E. and Eleanor Woody, owners
Chief, City Fire Department
NOTE: John E. Woody, Jr. is not listed in the directory.
- 1942 John E. and Eleanor Woody, owners
Chief, City Fire Department
Also listed is John E. Woody, Jr., U.S. Army
- 1941 John E. and Eleanor Woody, owners
Chief, City Fire Department
- 1940 Mrs. Bessie Pilcher, owner
Widow, Ben L. Pilcher
No occupation listed
NOTE: John E. and Eleanor Woody are listed as living at 211 E. 3rd Street; he is listed as the chief of the City Fire Department.
- 1939 Mrs. Bessie Pilcher, owner
Widow, Ben L. Pilcher
No occupation listed
- 1937 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Ben or Bessie Pilcher are not listed in the directory.

The 1930 U.S. Census lists Ben L. and Bessie Pilcher living at 2818 Rio Grande Street in a house they owned, which was worth \$9,000. Ben Pilcher was an agent for a publishing house, had been born in Ohio, and was 52 years old. Bessie Pilcher was also 52 years old and had been born in Ohio. They had two children: John, 25, who had no occupation listed in the census report; and Ben L., Jr., 23, who was a field worker. Both of the Pilcher boys had been born in Illinois.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows John and Eleanor Woody renting a house at 211 E. 3rd Street. He is listed as the fire chief for the city; John was 38, Eleanor was 36, and their son Jack was then 14. All had been born in Texas to Texas-born parents. Next door, at 209 E. 3rd Street, Arthur and Ruth Woody rented a house with their four children and step-son. Arthur Woody was 42 years old and was the County Constable.

John Woody, former Austin fire chief, dies at age 96

By John Harris
American-Statesman Staff

John Woody, who often picked up a hose to fight fires during his 32 years as Austin's fire chief, has died at the age of 96.

Woody, who died Monday in Kentucky, was remembered as a stern but dedicated fire chief who saw the Austin Fire Department grow from the days of horse-drawn vehicles to modern times.

Born in 1891, Woody was appointed acting fire chief in Decem-

ber 1926 and became chief in February 1927. He retired as chief in October 1958 to become an assistant director of public safety, a job he held until 1961.

When he became a firefighter in 1916, the Fire Department had five pieces of motorized equipment, a chief's car, three pieces of horse-drawn equipment and 35 employees. Today, the department has about 800 employees.

"He just liked to fish and hunt

See Woody, B6

Woody From B1

and fight fires," said Arthur Schriber, a retired district chief who served under Woody for 30 years. "He was just a real fireman."

Those who knew him said Woody always went to fires and was not content supervising.

"He did make all the fires," said James Petty, assistant administrator at the Fire Department. "He didn't stand back and watch. He had a nozzle in his hand when he was at a fire. And there wasn't any such thing as a breathing apparatus."

"He was a tough cookie. He was a businessman all the way. You didn't speak to him until he spoke

to you. But he was a dedicated man to the city. He was tough as nails. But once you got to know him, he was a fine person. He was well-respected."

Woody also coached the department's fast-pitch softball team. "It was said if you could play softball, you could get a job with the Austin Fire Department," Petty said.

"Probably, one of the more spectacular fires" Woody fought was the blaze that destroyed the old John T. Allan Junior High School at Ninth and Trinity streets, where First Baptist Church of Austin is located, Petty said.

Former Deputy Fire Chief Curtis

Rowland called Woody "a good stern chief."

"He was a good firefighter along with it. He got in there and fought the fire at the same time as the other men," Rowland said. "It's kind of different now, the way they do it now."

Don't miss
a word.
Call 445-4040 for
home delivery.
Austin American-Statesman

Obituary of John Woody
Austin American-Statesman, December 25, 1987

Obituary

WOODY—Mrs. Elenor Woody, 53, the wife of John Woody, chief of the Austin Fire Department, and a life long resident of Austin died in a local hospital early Wednesday morning. She was a member of First Street Christian Church.

She is survived by her husband, John Woody, one son, John Woody Jr.; one sister, Mrs. A. L. Walker, her mother, Mrs. Louise Hamby, and one granddaughter, Linda June Woody, all of Austin.

Funeral services will be held in the chapel of Wilke Funeral Home at 2 p. m. Thursday, with Rev. Chester Crow, pastor of the First Street Christian Church officiating. The body will be taken to San Antonio for cremation.

Obituary of Elenor Woody
Austin Statesman, April 30, 1947

Rites Set Today For Chief's Wife

Funeral services for Mrs. Elenor Woody, the wife of John Woody, chief of the Austin Fire Department, will be held at the Wilke Funeral Home at 2 p. m. Thursday with the Rev. Chester Crow officiating. The body will be taken to San Antonio for cremation.

Obituary of Elenor Woody
Austin American, May 1, 1947

1. **NAME** John E. Woody
 2. **DATE OF BIRTH** April 12, 1897
 3. **PLACE OF BIRTH** St. Louis, Mo.
 4. **DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE** April 12, 1918
 5. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 6. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 7. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 8. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 9. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 10. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 11. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 12. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920

I certify that I have read the foregoing and that it is true and correct.
John E. Woody

232
 1. **NAME** John E. Woody
 2. **DATE OF BIRTH** April 12, 1897
 3. **PLACE OF BIRTH** St. Louis, Mo.
 4. **DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE** April 12, 1918
 5. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
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 11. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920
 12. **DATE OF EXPIRATION OF SERVICE** April 12, 1920

I certify that I have read the foregoing and that it is true and correct.
John E. Woody

World War I Draft Registration Card for John E. Woody

JOHN ELMER WOODY: RIDING HERD ON FIRE ENGINES IS HIS JOB

From Volunteer Fireman to Chief

"Papa Joe" is the grand old son on earth in the eyes of the grand old man. Three-year-old Lynda Jane Woody.

Austin citizens are ready to swear that John Elmer Woody is the best fire chief in Texas. It is not to the Southwest.

Woody has been a member of the Austin Fire Department for a third of a century and has been chief fire chief for 12 years. He was elected to the position of chief of the department in 1917.

Woody was born in December, 1872, and was educated in the district of Adams R. Johnson, then Austin city manager, who had been elected to the position of chief of the fire department.

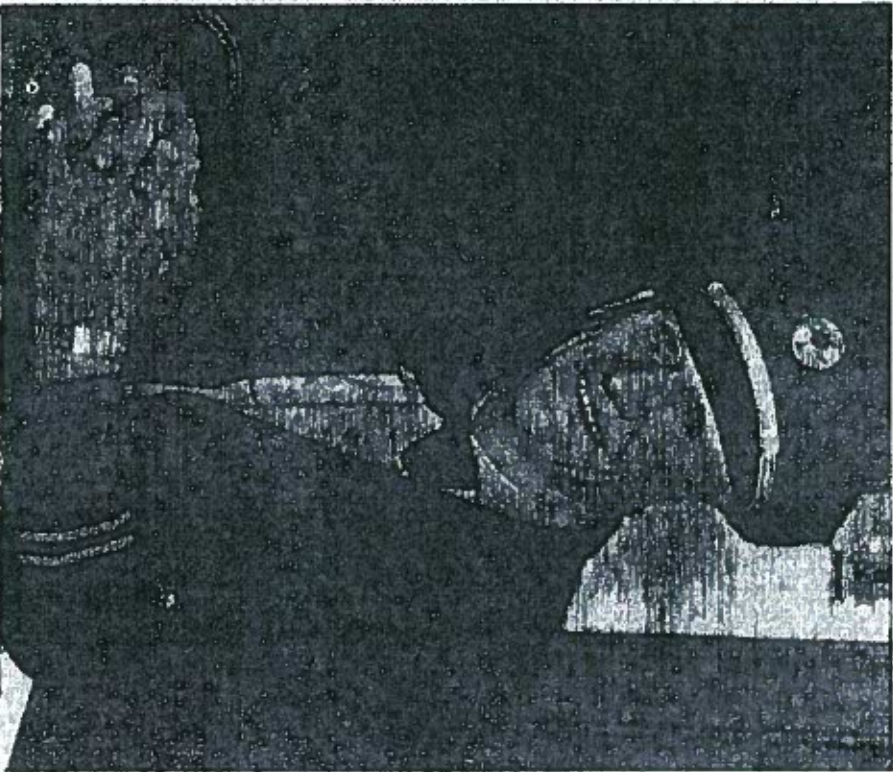
The late Charles Woodward, who had served as chief of the volunteer fire department and the first head of the paid department, died Nov. 25, 1922. Killed with some investigation, Woody dramatically had been chief of the department.

Woody was not only his own boss for 24 years as chief but under his direction the department has grown into one of the most efficient fire departments in Texas. Austinians have never uttered any criticism of the fire department under Woody's direction during the past quarter century. On the contrary, many commendations and awards of praise for a job well done have come to the department and to its chief.

The Austin fire chief is truly the personification of the saying of "country boy makes good." Woody was born at Cedar Park, Sept. 13, 1871, the son of James R. Woody and Anna Stewart.

Woody and Anna Stewart were married in 1891 and they have five other children besides the chief. His mother died only last November.

John got his education in a one-story brick school house at



JOHN E. WOODY—Gone Are the Horses.

Only 20 firemen were employed by the city of Austin when Woody "took it" on his job. There were Central, Protection

South Austin at 1703 South Congress, and East Austin at 1005 Lyella.

Since Woody entered the fire service, although they have more trucks and buildings and names of new streets.

Although they have more trucks and buildings and names of new streets.

He Also Manages The Softball Team

But he counts the configuration at the plant of the Capital Fire Insurance Company as his most interesting because that the company has 30 acres of ground. Appearances under the Woody results came in July 1916, two months after he entered service. This was the first in the Kreske Building in the 400 block of Congress Avenue, next door to the old Southwestern Bell Telephone Company exchange. Walls of the Kreske Building fell on the telephone plant and put the telephone out of commission for some time.

Other spectacular thing on Woody's list included the old stadium which he had the control which occurred on a freezing night in January, 1917, when coaches of the School of Military Aeronautics helped in getting the blaze under control. The more recent Callesan Lumber Company, and the Boring Company, and the Boring Company, and the Boring Company.

Fishing, hunting and basketball are Woody's favorite diversions, while as far as football and baseball go he confines his interest by listening to radio broadcasts. His major interest these days are managing the fire department's softball team. He played softball from 1921 to 1924 and served as manager and pitcher when the team won the city championship in 1921.

The fire chief prizes most of all the trophy won by the fire department team in August, 1924, when it won the championship at the San Sabe tournament over the Duld of a dozen other teams. With the trophy went fifty prizes of \$25, which the team added to similar prizes won in a similar tournament at Elgin.

That San Sabe trophy did not come easy to the Austin team. The Austin firemen defeated Frederickburg 2 to 1, and Mason, 3 to 4, before they won the trophy on Saturday night, Aug. 13, 11 was 1:30 a. m. Sunday before the Austin team walked off the field with the

The late Clarence Woodward, who had served as last chief of the volunteer fire department and the first head of the paid department, died Nov. 29, 1938. Filled with some resignation, Woody dramatically told Mayor Johnson he would do his best after Johnson offered him encouragement.

[illegible]

The Austin fire chief is truly the personification of the saying of "country boy makes good." Woody was born at Cedar Park, Sept. 12, 1897, the son of James B. Woody and Rita Stewart Woody. His father died in 1924, two years after John became fire-chief. His mother died only last November.

John got his education in a two-story brick school house at Round Rock, where all the grades through high school were taught. He moved with his parents to Austin about 1906. His father leased the old Scott Wear location on East Seventh to Aaron Weches in Trinity Street and established a heavy stable. John helped his father in the various

During his "growing up" days in Austin, the fire department operated on a volunteer basis. Finally, on April 1, 1916 the department became a paid organization of the City of Austin. Exactly one month later John got a job under Chief Woodward as a stevedore at a salary of \$70 a month. He took the place of

When he entered the organization, all equipment was horse-drawn. Only three places of residence were provided. The men received no pay, but were furnished with food and clothing. He stayed on and climbed up the ladder to become assistant chief in 1913 and later chief in 1917.

in service. Two of these were stationed in the old Central Station at 114 West Eighth Street adjacent to the City Hall, and since taken down, and one was placed at the North Austin Station at 20th and Cleveland.

JOHN E. WOODY—Guns Are the Heart

Only 30 firemen were empty-
ed by the City of Austin when
Woody "broke in" on his job.
Lytle.

Since Woody entered the bus department, there have been many changes made. According to those days of a score year-ago, at the Districts at Central Station during Christmas held open house and served egg nog to all young and old people. In times of sickness, class students and teachers who happened in, Quince and sandwiches friendly "party" celebration.

Today, 180 men are on the detention camp, and 100 are being served by 100 military and 100 civilian cooks. The men are housed in 100 tents, and the food is served in 100 mess halls. The men are housed in 100 tents, and the food is served in 100 mess halls. The men are housed in 100 tents, and the food is served in 100 mess halls.

[illegible]

The four telephone operators who work eight hour shifts usually get about six to 40 inquiries a day for information about or mail written and window

Aeromantics stepped in, getting the plane under control; the more recent Calabasas Lumber Company, and the Bowling Center fires of 1950.

strong, running, and seasonal. Mr. Wood's favorite diversion, while so far as football and baseball go he confides his interests by listening to radio broadcasts. His major interest these days are managing the fire department's football team. His latest football team (1941 to 1944) had several fine managers and players when the team won the

The live, color picture movie of all the trophy wins by the first department began in August, 1934, when it won the championship at the San Diego tournament over the field of a dozen other teams. With the trophy went first prize of \$200, which the team added to another \$240 prize won in a similar tournament at Dallas.

That San Saba trophy did not come easy to the Austin team. The Austin team, consisting of Fredrickberg, 2 to 1, and Krumm, 3 to 2, had to battle around the final day of the tournament on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 11. It was 1:30 a. m. that day before the Austin team edged off the field with the

The Austin firm cited as "a jobber" but admits its sales are being handled by the

Light reference is made to them all my folks have been. Metoedee. Since the death of his wife, Eleanor "Bammy" Woody, in April, 1947, Woody has been residing with his son, Jack Woody, at 709 Jordan Avenue, East St. Louis. The identification bureau of the Austin Police Department also spending four

When Audubon's skin-cryed, tut-tut, all the chief men bowed

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DR. K. R. J. VAN DER

Woody Indicates He Might Retire

Veteran Fire Chief John Woody said Wednesday that he "might" retire if the right business opportunity comes along.

Woody told a reporter he had been interested for some time in going into the cattle business. He added that he had no definite plans.

Woody has been a member of the city fire department for 35 years. He has been its chief since 1928 and is eligible for retirement under the department's pension system.

He said, however, that he had no intention of stepping out any time soon unless a good opportunity to enter the cattle business presents itself.

Woody disclosed that last year he had been interested in a ranch in South Texas. But he said that deal fell through.



RETIREMENT BADGE—It was a big affair for 13 long-time but now retired firemen who were honored by local firefighters at a banquet this week. J. E. Woody, former chief, receives a retirement badge and scroll noting his 41 years of service to the city from present Chief R. St. Christopher.

honor had a total of 464 years service. Others included J. A. Luckey, M. L. Yancey, M. D. Turner, A. J. Hamilton, W. L. Williams, M. R. Miller, W. L. Oerth, Prentiss Shuttleworth, C. C. Swinney, L. A. Cade, Oliver I. Ing and

Dec 16
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Austin Fire Department HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS 1841-1975

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AFD History: 1976-2002



1841 First fire protection organization sanctioned by the City Council. In December, Richard Bullock organized a seven-man fire protection group. However, the group was neither skilled nor equipped to fight fires, and fire protection was still inadequate.

1858 Until this time there had been no organized fire company. The *State Gazette* and the *Texas Intelligencer*, two local papers, continually ran articles about the necessity of organized fire protection. Hook and Ladder Company #1 was organized in August of that year. The first home of the company was in Peck's Hall, a two-story frame building on

6th Street near the Driskell Hotel. Equipment included a Seagrave trussed hook and ladder truck with tiller, three-horse hitch, three trained horses, extension ladders up to 60 feet, Hale harness, hangers, and Babcock extinguishers. The company used wooden buckets at first, but later was supplled with leather fire buckets. The first uniforms consisted of blue eight-cone firefighter hats, red shirts with "H & L No. 1" across the breast, and black patent leather belts with white gloves. The company's logo was "Always Ready!" Alarms were given by cries of "Fire," pistol shots and the ringing of church bells. The first man to get the key would open the truck house and act as commander; the truck then pulled out, and the members would fall in and grab hold of the ropes.

1866 The City Council appointed C.F. Millett as the first person to hold the position of Fire Chief. He served three years.

Also that year, cisterns were installed at eight locations to supply water for fire protection.

1868 Washington Fire Company #1 was established on 6th Street.

The first fire engine, pulled by hand, was replaced by a steamer, which in turn was abandoned when the water company changed to the Holly system in the early 1880s. The engine company then was converted to a hose company.

1870 Austin had a population of 5,000.

1871 The City Council purchased the first fire steam engine.

A third company, Colorado Fire Company #2, was organized. Austin's third-oldest company had a long and brilliant record.

1874 A fire in the State Capitol on Feb. 14, 1874, burned completely through the floor between the second and third floors. According to fire department records, "It was owing only to the timely arrival of several members of the Hook and Ladder Company that the building was saved." The City Council approved the hiring of an engineer to operate a new \$6,000 engine. He was on duty at all times and was paid a monthly salary of \$100.

The City Water Company installed the first hydrant system on Austin's two main streets: Congress Avenue and Pecan Street.

On March 23, a new city ordinance provided for an Assistant Chief, recorder, and fire and police commissioner, in addition to the Fire Chief.

1875 Central Engine Company #3 was established with a chemical engine at 4th Street and East Avenue. The chemical engine proved to be unsatisfactory and the company disbanded in 1877.

The Hope Hook and Ladder Company #2, also established in 1875, lived a short but glorious existence. Hope's main claim to fame was a State Championship race won in 1878. It was disbanded in 1882.

1877 A fire on Nov. 9 at the Blind Asylum injured several firefighters. Foreman E.T. Deats died as a result of his injuries on Jan. 20, 1878.

1878 Hook and Ladder Company #3 was organized and later became Protection Hose Company #3.

1879 Hook and Ladder station house burned while firefighters were battling a fire in the second ward (Avenue Hotel). Efforts to save the house were futile.

The City's expenditures for the fire department were \$7,504.39. The department was comprised of two engine houses and one hook and ladder house.

1881 The State Capitol was destroyed by fire on Nov. 9. The 16th and 17th Legislatures had failed to approve funding for hydrants; there was insufficient water or water pressure to mount an effective attack on the fire. An entry in fire records by department recorder A.M. Robinson, noted " . . . the pressure, however, was not sufficient to throw water even a few feet. The economical solons (sessions) of the sixteenth legislature and so, too, the seventeenth, refused to appropriate enough money to supply the Capitol building and the grounds with hydrants and water. Today, we gaze upon the blackened walls of a burnt state house as the monument to their penny-wise and pound-foolish policy."

In the same year, a tribute to Austin firefighters appeared in the *Texas Siftings*: "In no city in Texas that we know of, or elsewhere, is there so large a proportion of the best men in the community connected with the fire department. The most prominent bankers, merchants, and professional men in Austin are firemen."

1882 On July 6, the City Council budgeted \$346 per month for salaries of engineers, rent of rooms for engines, hose carriages, hook and ladder trucks, and other expenses.

1886 The fire alarm system at this time included an approximately 4,000-pound, spring-clapper, general alarm bell at city hall and bell towers at two other firehouses. All companies were connected by a special phone system. When a report of fire came in, the alarm was sent to central; central then pressed a button and all companies were notified of the fire and its location (six rings for sixth ward, for instance). The officer on-duty at city hall was notified by central over the phone and rang the alarm bell, indicating location by number of taps. Each company had a prescribed district for first alarms. All companies turned out for second alarms.

East Austin Fire Company #4 was established. Its fire hall was located between 10th and 11th, on Lydia Street.

1895 South Austin Fire Company #5 located on South Congress was established.

1896 North Austin Fire Company #6 was established. Originally located at 30th and Rio Grande streets, a permanent hall was built at 3002 Guadalupe St. The fire hall filled both the occupational and social functions of the community. The ground level was the maintenance shop and the second story consisted of one large main room with a stage. The volunteer firefighters' band would play as community members danced and socialized. The volunteers ran the house until 1916 when they turned it over to the city government, which hired professional firefighters. The structure was used for many years as a maintenance shop for the Austin Fire Department. It has since been restored and preserved for future generations.

1897 For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30 the value of property in the department owned by the city totaled \$25,511.75. The value of property in the department owned by the companies totaled \$13,148. The number of company members was 324 whereas the number of members on City payroll was seven. Companies responded to 70 alarms, which resulted in \$27,157.15 in property damage.

Austin ranked at the head of the "second class" insurance rating. To have "first class" status, the department had to have full-time paid firefighters, macadamized streets and electric fire alarm systems.

1899 The building that was utilized as the temporary State Capitol (following the 1881 fire) and later used as Austin High School, burned on Sept. 30. It was located on the southwest corner of Congress Avenue and Mesquite (11th) Street.

1905 West Austin Company #7 was organized on Feb. 16, 1905, at 1000 Blanco St. This fire station is the oldest still standing and occupied as a fire station, now AFD Station 4.

1908 Tenth Ward Fire Company #8 was organized on May 26 at a meeting of citizens on the steps of the First Methodist Church.

1911 Adolf Schutze was elected Chief of the Austin Volunteer Fire Department. He barely had pinned on his Chief's badge when his first alarm sounded. He hitched a ride on a ladder truck instead of going to the fire in the wagon provided by the City.

1912 The first motor-driven vehicle was purchased at a cost of \$4,200 from Webb Motor Fire Apparatus Company.

1913 The last of the volunteer companies to be organized was Rescue Hose Company #9 on May 21. The fire hall was located on East Avenue south of 24th Street.

1915 During the flash floods and storms of April 1915, Firefighter Thomas Edward Quinn was killed in the line of duty on April 22 while attempting a rescue from flood waters on Shoal Creek.



1916 Voters approved to change to a fully paid fire department in May, which began operations in June 1916 with 27 men. Clarence Woodward was appointed Fire Chief.

On July 23, 1916, the new department experienced its first major fire in the Kreisle Building. Four firefighters were seriously injured. Firefighter James T. Glass had his spine crushed. He lay paralyzed at Brackenridge Hospital until his death more than one year later. His badge number was "13" and that number was permanently retired in his memory.

1917 By the end of the year, there were 35 firefighters, five pieces of motor apparatus, one Chief's car and three pieces of horse-drawn equipment. A hoseman was paid \$70 per month and the operating budget for the year was \$43,740.

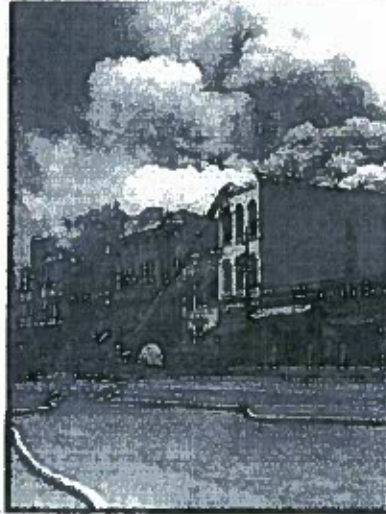
1921 The earliest State Board of Insurance record of Austin's fire insurance rate was listed at 23 cents. Austin had a 15 percent good fire record and a 32 percent fire ratio loss, which reflected an excellent record of fire prevention and protection.

1923 Austin firefighters worked either a 10-hour day or a 14-hour night, seven days a week.

1925 The fire department's communication system consisted of two telephones, one of which was a magneto with a hand crank. People would call in a fire on the regular phone and the dispatcher would crank the magneto. There were no radios. When a fire company went out on a call, the dispatcher no idea what was going on at the fire until somebody at from fire could get to a telephone to replay the information.

1926 John E. Woody served as acting Chief of the department from Dec. 15, 1926 to Feb. 1, 1927. He was then appointed Chief on Feb. 1, 1927, and remained so until Oct. 1958. Chief Woody died on Dec. 21, 1987.

The old bell that had called the members of the Austin Fire Department to so many fires since 1887 was removed from its tower in 1926. It had hung at the top of a tower in the rear of the old City Hall. Weighing 3,597 pounds, the bell was said to be one of the purest-toned bells ever turned out in this country. The bell was sold to the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1206 E. 9th St., and still is hanging in its church tower heralding services.



1929 Fire Station 9 at 100 E. 43rd St. opened on Aug. 1.

1931 The six-story brick drill tower located on Town Lake was constructed for training purposes, at a cost of \$6,200.

1932 On Nov. 20, Fire Station 2 was opened at 506 W. Martin Luther King Blvd. The original Station 2, located at 1614 Lavaca St., was built in 1878. It housed Protection Hook and Ladder Company No. 3.

On Oct. 15, Fire Station 6 was opened at 1705 S. Congress Ave. Station 6 replaced the old wood frame structure that was built in 1895 to house the South Austin Fire Company No. 5.

In 1932 the fire department responded to 613 alarms with a total expenditure of \$123,882.66.

1938 The Fire Department continued to grow along with the City of Austin. New fire

stations were constructed and older stations were remodeled. The depression years slowed the growth of the department somewhat, but in 1938, a new central fire station was constructed downtown at 401 E. 5th St. and Station No. 10 was built and opened on the far west side of Austin at 3009 Windsor Rd.

An alarm system of an entirely new design was installed in all Austin fire stations and fire apparatus. Austin was one of the first fire departments in the South to have an alarm system that featured a loud speaker system connected to its 10 stations and two-way radio communications with all apparatus, including 13 fire trucks and four official automobiles. The personnel of the Fire Department consisted of the Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs, District Chiefs, Captains, and Privates. The 166 men in the Department worked on 24-hour shifts changing at noon.



1940 The Austin Fire Department responded to 1,246 alarms. On April 10, Fire Station 7 at 201 Chicon St. was opened, replacing the old Tenth Ward building located at 111 E. 1st St.

1941 The Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Law was passed by the 45th Legislature in 1937 and Austin firefighters voted to become members in 1941. This retirement system is state-approved but locally administered. Today, Austin firefighters enjoy one of the finest retirement systems in the country.



1947 A bill authorizing Civil Service classification for firefighters and police officers was approved by the Texas Legislature. Austin voters approved the classification to become effective in May 1948. The vote passed 10-to-one in favor of the firefighters. Never before or since has an election passed with a 10-to-one favor.

1948 Shortly after Civil Service Law was voted in, Austin firefighters became organized as Local 975 of the International Fire Fighters Association. Only a few

firefighters did not join. Firefighters were prohibited by law from striking, but general

sentiment was that no one wanted to leave the city unprotected. The main focus of the organization was to pass amendments and improvements to the pension laws.

A building inspection program was initiated to foster fire prevention, which is still being carried out by inspectors and in-service fire companies.

1949 World War II had slowed the growth of the fire department, but in 1949 the fire department was recovering and beginning to make progress. Fire Station 11, located at 1605 Kinney Ave., was completed and placed in service on May 5, 1949. Station 12, located at 2109 Hancock Dr., was completed and placed into service on June 14, 1949. At the end of the year, fire department personnel numbered 171.

1950 In this year, the Austin Fire Department responded to 2,293 alarms.



1952 The Austin Fire Department employed three black firefighters, the first blacks to be hired under Civil Service law in the state of Texas. The three were Willie Ray Davis, who retired as a Captain; Nathaniel H. Kindred, who died of a heart attack in 1977 while at a fire scene; and Roy D. Greene, who resigned.

Also this year, crash truck apparatus were placed at newly completed Station 14, 4305 Airport Blvd., to provide fire coverage for the Municipal Airport complex. Fire Station 14 was completed and placed in service Sept. 26, 1952, providing firefighting and crash rescue operations for

incidents involving aircraft. Fire personnel and equipment serving the airport operate under Federal Aviation Administration guidelines.

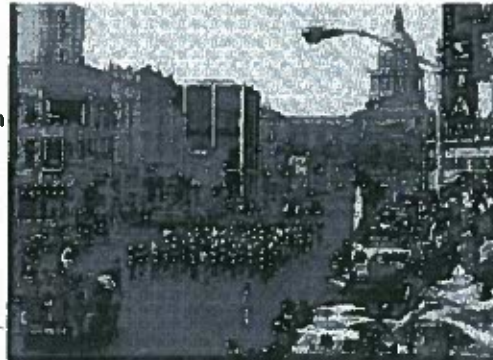
1953 Station 15, located at 829 Airport Blvd., was opened on Feb. 24.

1954 Beginning in 1954, the Fire Prevention Division had a new job and title to add to its line of command. The City Council voted to amend the Civil Service Ordinance to create the new Chief Inspector position.

1956 The City Council approved the purchase of four pumpers and a 65-foot aerial ladder

truck for a total of \$75,027 from the firm of Peter, Pirsch, and Son, which provided the lowest of eight bids.

1957 On Feb. 1, Fire Station 3 at 201 West 30th St. was opened. The new station cost an estimated \$66,000. Station 3 replaced the old fire hall at 3002 Guadalupe St. that was built in 1906 and housed North Austin Hose Co. No. 6. On Feb. 7, Fire Station 16 at 7000 Reese Lane was opened.



1959 Robert H. Dickerson was appointed to the position of Fire Chief on June 19. He remained in the position until March 15, 1968.

1962 During the Cuban Crisis, interest in Civil Defense increased in Austin and public fallout shelters were designated throughout the city. In 1964, City Manager W.T. Williams was appointed Director of Civil Defense. The Fire Chief was designated Chief of the Fire and Rescue Services, which included agencies assigned to this emergency service. The Fire Department's role in the civil emergency operation was to provide emergency fire prevention, fire control, rescue support, and facility decontamination support. In 1973, the Civil Defense operation was merged into the Fire Department.

1963 Joe Villareal was the first Hispanic firefighter employed by the Austin Fire Department. He served until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1992.

1965 On Jan. 15, Fire Station 18 at 6311 Berkman Dr. was opened. In March, the City's Fire Prevention Division opened its newly completed building at 1621 Festival Beach Rd. Located just east of the Interregional Bridge on the north shore of Town Lake, the 10,000-square foot, two-level structure cost \$170,000.



1966 Austin accepted delivery on its newest piece of firefighting equipment, a \$50,000 Snorkel truck. It featured a basket-type platform on a jointed hydraulic boom that could be raised 75 feet in the air, extended 39 feet

horizontally, and rotated in a complete circle in either direction. Straight or fog type water streams could be pumped at a rate of 1,100 gallons per minute from a four-way maneuverable nozzle on the platform.

1967 On Oct. 1, Fire Station 19 was opened at 5211 Balcones Dr.



1968 Ed S. Kirkham was appointed Fire Chief on Sept. 27. He resigned from the position in Sept. 1982.

1969 In March, Fire Station 5 at 1201 Webberville Rd. was opened. This station replaced the fire hall that housed East Austin Fire Co. No. 4 at 1005 Lydia St. originally built in 1886.

Firefighters received new uniforms consisting of navy blue slacks, light blue shirts, ties and Eisenhower jackets. Officers wore white shirts and caps to set them apart. After being outfitted with new uniforms, Austin firefighters were considered by many to be the best-dressed firefighters in the state.

1970 Fire department applicants underwent 12 weeks of training before being admitted to the force. The first six weeks involved classroom training in which they were taught standard approaches for responding to and fighting fires. Fire department discipline and basic Civil Service also were part of the compulsory curriculum. The second six-week program was on-the-job training, where the potential firefighter was assigned to a truck and worked under observation.

A new airport crash truck was purchased for \$68,000. It held 1,500 gallons of water for making foam. The truck could spray its load in five minutes at a range of 150 feet.

The Salvation Army Canteen, staffed by Claude and Leona Rutledge on a volunteer basis, began responding to major alarms to provide firefighters with refreshments, cool towels, a place to relax, and words of encouragement. The Rutledges quickly were adopted by the firefighters and continued to provide this most appreciated service until 1987. Claude Rutledge died Sept. 13, 1995. Several fire trucks lead the procession at the funeral.

1971 The City Council recommended closing the station located at 43rd and Speedway, but a delegation of Hyde Park residents descended upon the council and the plans were canceled. This same scenario has been repeated two times since.

1972 In February, Fire Station 8 at 8989 Research Blvd. was opened. It originally was located at 21st and East Avenue, which was the home of Rescue Hose Company No. 9, the last volunteer company to be formed (May 21, 1913).

On June 17, Capt. James L. Buford died in the line of duty while attempting to rescue a 15-year-old boy, who also drowned in the Shoal Creek flood waters.

1973 Willie Ray Davis was promoted to the rank of Captain, the first black firefighter to achieve the Captain's badge in the Austin Fire Department, as well as in the state of Texas.

1974 The Fire Department accepted delivery of three diesel pumpers and one diesel aerial ladder truck. This was the first diesel fire apparatus to be purchased for firefighting in Austin. In the following years, all new engines and trucks were diesel-fueled.

AFD began training in its new six-story fire drill tower located at 517 S. Pleasant Valley Rd. On Jan. 23, Fire Station 20 at 6601 Manchaca Rd. was opened. On Feb. 26, Fire Station 21 at 4201 Spicewood Springs Rd. was opened.

1975 On April 3, Fire Station 22 at 5309 E. Riverside Dr. was opened. May 24 was declared Firefighter Recognition Day by Austin Mayor Jeffrey M. Friedman. The Hyde Park neighborhood again waged a successful fight against the City's recommended closing of Fire Station 9.

It was decided that Emergency Medical Services would be a separate City department beginning Jan. 1, 1976. Prior to this decision, Austin Ambulance was the franchise-holder for ambulance service within the city. The Fire Department began active recruitment of women to serve as firefighters.

AFD History 1976-2002



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